

BREAST FEEDING

ESSAY

Submitted for partial fulfilment of
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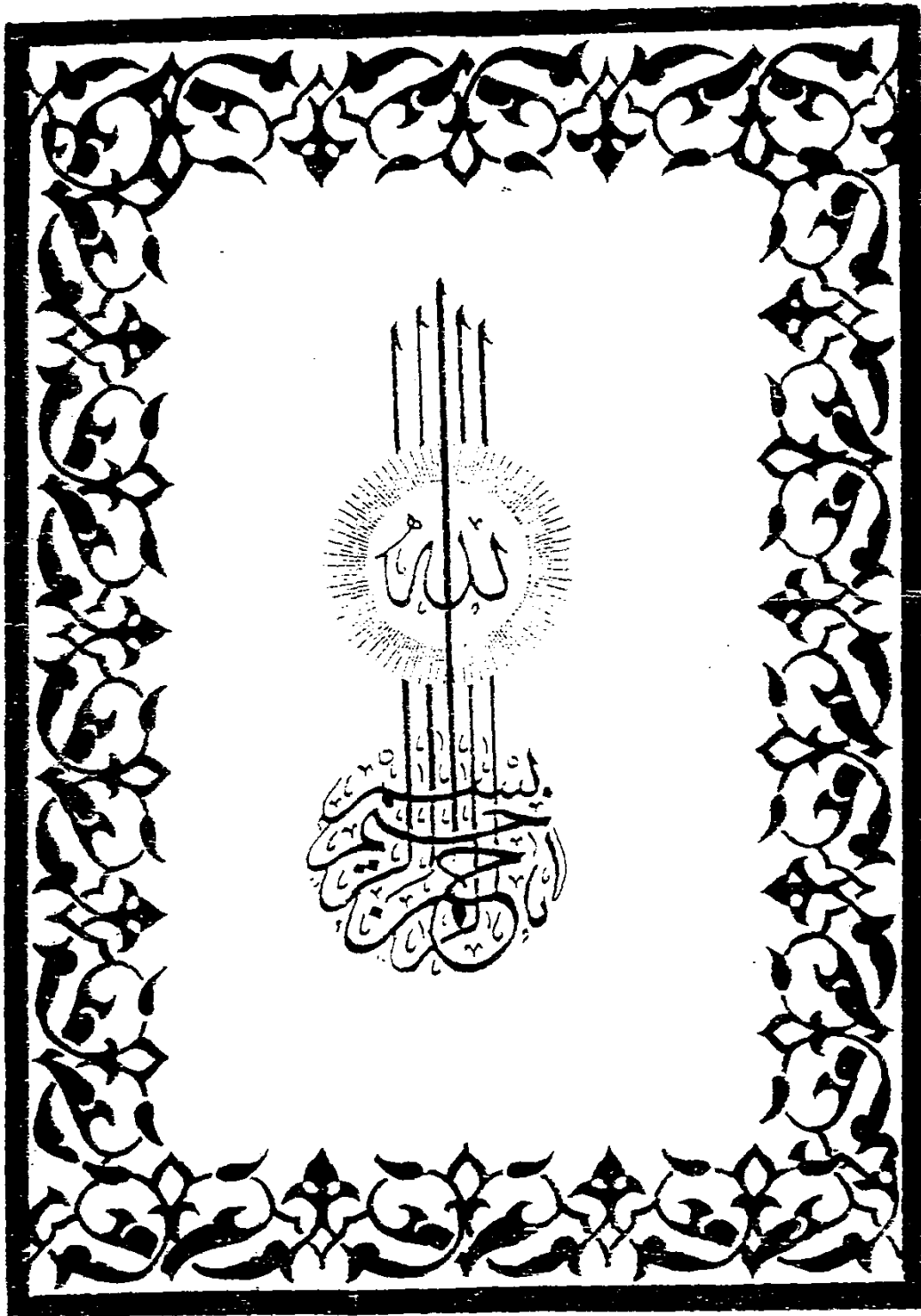
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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

The form, function and pathology of the female breast are major concerns of medicine and society. As mammals we define our biologic class by the function of the breast in nourishing our young.

In almost all species, the maternal milk is necessary for the sustenance of the newborn infants during their neonatal period, and adequate lactation is essential for survival of the species.(Mata, 1984).

The return of breast feeding has provided stimulus for research into biochemistry and physiology of human lactation and, as a result it has become apparent that the composition of the milk is uniquely tailored to provide the essential nutritional and biologic elements required by the infant, and that breast feeding is a complex interaction between the mother and her infant. Furthermore breast feeding facilitates the establishment of a strong relationship between mother and infant, and suppresses maternal fertility (Barness,1992)

It was found that encouraging the education and employment of women, so that they would be able to earn more income that would afford for better standards of living, made them unable to carry the responsibilities of motherhood. They had no time to breast feed their infants; therefore, they have resorted completely to artificial feeding. Recent views demonstrated the advantages of breast feeding for both the mother and the infant, particularly from the psychological point of view.

As breast feeding became the first choice in infant nutrition, the study of this subject gained more and more interest.